

**Consultation and Communications Protocols
Between
The U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
and
The North American Electric Reliability Council**

These protocols reflect a common understanding of how the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) will communicate with regard to electric reliability matters. FERC and NERC will meet on an informal basis, at both the executive and staff levels, to review the status of information exchange, reliability policies, Federal legislation, and other matters of mutual interest, including the international aspects of these issues.

- The FERC Chairman (or his or her designee) and NERC executives will hold periodic discussions not less often than semiannually, on matters related to reliability.
- A Commission staff person will be an observer on the NERC Board of Trustees and a nonvoting member on each of the three NERC standing committees and on other committees, subcommittees, or task forces, as appropriate.
- NERC will work with Commission staff to address specific reliability issues that affect Commission jurisdictional matters. A staff member will be designated by

FERC and NERC as contact person for each working group, as shown on the Appendix to this document. Initial discussion may cover such issues as:

- Data exchange;
 - Interrelationships between reliability rules and tariff provisions, and mechanisms for making appropriate changes; and
 - Ways to enforce reliability rules.
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- NERC will extend an invitation to the FERC Chairman (or his or her designee) to attend its Board meetings and will afford an opportunity at its Board meetings for FERC presentation and discussion of issues.
 - These protocols will be implemented in compliance with the Commission's practices and protocols regarding prohibited (ex parte) communications.

Approved: _____
FERC

NERC

APPENDIX

Working Group No. 1 (General reliability/institutional issues, including Plan B and its funding, reliability/tariff issues, and other new items that arise).

FERC contact: Kevin Kelly
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Backup: Don LeKang

NERC contacts: Don Benjamin
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David Cook (Plan B issues)
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Working Group No. 2 (Data issues, including data exchange and assessments).

FERC contact: Shelton Cannon

NERC contact: Gene Gorzelnick
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Working Group No. 3 (Legal issues, including legislation and compliance and enforcement).

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